



# Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Volume 4, Number 2



A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary Constituents

Reporting period: February 24 to April 28, 2006

## ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) consists of an area off the coast of California of approximately 1,252.5 square nautical miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California.

A fertile combination of warm and cool currents in this area results in a great variety of plants and animals including kelp forests, fish and invertebrates, pinnipeds, cetaceans and sea birds. The sanctuary also has a wealth of maritime heritage resources including Chumash Native American artifacts and over 100 historic shipwrecks. Human uses in the area include commercial and recreational fishing, marine wildlife viewing, boating, diving, kayaking, maritime shipping, nearby offshore oil and gas development, research and monitoring, and numerous educational activities.

agencies regarding the new Draft Management Plan.

**The Draft Management Plan is available via download at [www.channelislands.noaa.gov](http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov), and may be requested via email at [mp.request@noaa.gov](mailto:mp.request@noaa.gov) or via phone at 805.884.1464.**

Copies will also be available at the Santa Barbara Public Library and Ventura County Library, or you may stop by a sanctuary office, located at: 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara Harbor (in Santa Barbara), and 3600 S. Harbor Blvd. Ste. 111, Channel Islands Harbor (in Ventura County).

## HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR SANCTUARY!

### Sanctuary's New Draft Management Plan Available for Public Comment Through July 21, 2006

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's (CINMS or sanctuary) new Draft Management Plan, released for public review and comment in May 2006, represents a major revision of the original 1983 management plan under which the sanctuary currently operates. The management plan is a road map for sanctuary management that serves to: 1) guide site management toward achievement of the sanctuary's goals using the best means available; and 2) inform sanctuary constituents, including the general public, about the sanctuary, its regulations, and the management actions it has planned for the next five years. Based on input from the Sanctuary Advisory Council and general public, sanctuary, National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) and other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) staff collaborated to develop a robust set of action plans and proposed revised sanctuary regulations to address issues and concerns identified during public scoping (the first phase of public input into management plan review, conducted in 1999). The sanctuary staff also consulted with Congressional leaders and federal, state and local government

## Window on the Sanctuary

California Sea Lion\* (*Zalophus californianus*) pupping and breeding season (May through July).

Photo Credit: Annie Crawley



Photo Credit: Annie Crawley  
CINMS Image Library



### *How to Comment on the Draft Management Plan*

Comments on the Draft Management Plan will be accepted through July 21, 2006. The sanctuary will hold two public hearings in June, one in Santa Barbara and one in Ventura. For more information about the public hearings and how you can comment please see the text box at right.

## **SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mike Murray, CINMS Advisor Council Coordinator, attended the sixth annual meeting of Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators in Washington DC, April 25-28, 2006. The meeting gave Advisory Council Coordinators a chance to discuss common challenges, shared goals, and success strategies, while the gathering of Chairs provided an opportunity for learning about National Marine Sanctuary Program priorities and emerging issues. With subject matter experts on hand and agency leadership present, much discussion was given to the topics of fishing regulations in national marine sanctuaries, oil and gas exploration, alternative ocean energy, and marine acoustics. A reception for the Advisory Council Chairs, hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, provided an opportunity for casual conversation Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher, the head of NOAA.

## **MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM**

### **Education and Outreach**

Maritime Heritage Program Coordinator Robert Schwemmer authored an article titled *Shipwrecks That Built San Miguel Island* for the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's journal *Maritime Currents*. The article documents the wrecking events of the sailing vessels *Kate and Anna*, *J. M. Colman*, *Comet* and the passenger-cargo steamship *Cuba*. Historic accounts record the construction of Captain Waters' ranch house and Rancho Rambouillet from the remnants of these ships and their cargos ("floating hardware stores").

## **We welcome your comments and suggestions on the Draft Management Plan. Here's how you can comment:**

### **Public Hearings:**

Tuesday, June 27, 2006, 6:15-9:00 pm  
Sheraton Four Points Hotel  
San Buenaventura Ballroom  
1050 Schooner Drive  
Ventura, California

Thursday, June 29, 2006, 6:15-9:00 pm  
Earl Warren Showgrounds  
Warren Hall  
3400 Calle Real Street  
Santa Barbara, California

**Email:** [cinms.mgtplan@noaa.gov](mailto:cinms.mgtplan@noaa.gov)

**Mail:** Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
Management Plan Coordinator  
113 Harbor Way, Suite 150  
Santa Barbara, California 93109

**Fax:** (805) 568-1582

*Comments accepted through  
(postmarked by) July 21, 2006.*

For more information visit these web sites:

*Kate and Anna:* <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/kateandanna.html>

*J. M. Colman:* <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/jmcolman.html>

*Comet:* <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/comet.html>

*Cuba:* <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/cuba1.html>





A view of Rancho Rambouillet (left) before a fire destroyed the historic structure in 1967. *Courtesy Lester Family.* Sinks from the *Cuba* (right) can still be seen at the island in the ruins of Rancho Rambouillet. Photos: Robert Schwemmer.

Schwemmer and web developer Amy Cale are creating a website to feature articles by Roberta Cordero (Chumash Maritime Association) and Georgiana Valoyce Sanchez, (Elder Barbareno Chumash Council) about the 2004 tomol (*Elye'wun*) crossing to Santa Cruz Island (*Limuw*). The articles will include images captured by Schwemmer during the crossing.

### Resource Protection

Staff from the sanctuary, Channel Islands National Park (CINP or park), and Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources group met in February to plan the field season for the 2006 Channel Islands shipwreck reconnaissance program. One five-day expedition aboard the R/V *Shearwater* and two five-day expeditions aboard the park's R/V *Pacific Ranger* have been scheduled. The science team plans to continue installing datums at the shipwreck sites *Goldenhorn* and *Cuba*. In addition, the team plans to continue mapping of the *Aggi* shipwreck site, as well as to survey as many of the ship and aircraft wreck sites as possible in the time available.

Schwemmer provided research on the shipwreck *Empire Gem* to Michael Overfield, who maintains NOAA's Resources and Under Sea Threats (RUST) database, which includes shipwrecks that may pose environmental threats to marine resources. Schwemmer attended the Channel Islands cooperative enforcement meeting in April and is providing documentation on maritime heritage resources that will be included in the monitoring efforts by federal and state law enforcement partners.

For more information visit these web sites:

*Aggi*

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/aggi.html>

*Goldenhorn*

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/goldenhorn.html>

### Regional Maritime Heritage Program

Julie Bursek and Schwemmer worked on a grant proposal for the NOAA 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mini-Grant Program. If funded, a set of five individual posters highlighting the voyage of discovery along the Davidson Current through the five west coast national marine sanctuaries will be developed. The Davidson current is the longshore current along the west coast of the United States that transports cold waters southwards from the Gulf of Alaska to Point Conception and the Channel Islands. Schwemmer completed a review of the final draft of *Fathoming Our Past* edited by Bruce Terrell for the four California national marine sanctuaries. First published in 1995, the updated version will now include all thirteen national marine sanctuaries and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and provide historical context for each sanctuary's maritime history.

Schwemmer participated in planning meetings for the upcoming USS *Macon* 2006 expedition. The *Macon*, a 785-foot rigid-frame airship, was lost off Point Sur in 1935 along with four Curtis Sparrowhawk aircraft. Also in attendance was Bruce Terrell from NMSP headquarters, staff from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, scientists from Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Stanford University, University of New Hampshire, and representation from local museums. For more information go to: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/maritime/expeditions/ussmacon.html>.

The current issue of *Ecosystem Observations* for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary features an article titled *Expeditions to the Shipwreck Montebello* author by Schwemmer. The article addresses two expeditions, one in 1996 and the second led by the sanctuary in 2003, to survey the sunken Union Oil tanker lost near Cambria in 1941. The *Montebello* was a victim of a torpedo attack by the Japanese submarine *I-21* just three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Although the shipwreck lies outside of the Monterey Bay National Marine's southern boundary, the site is being monitored as a potential environmental threat to sanctuary resources. The history and surveys of the *Montebello* will be featured at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's new visitor's center in San Simeon. For more information visit: [http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/montebello\\_2.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/montebello_2.html).

### **CHANNEL ISLANDS: STORIES FROM THE PAST**

From the *San Francisco Call*, November 19, 1883 and reported in the *New York Times* dated November 30, 1883 [in-part].

#### **AN EXTENSIVE SHEEP RANGE.**

"The little schooner *Santa Rosa* arrived in port [San Francisco] from San Barbara a few days ago. She comes up to this city twice a year to secure provisions, clothing, lumber, for use on *Santa Rosa* Island, being owned by the great sheep-raiser A. P. Moore, who owns the island and the 80,000 sheep that exist upon it. The island is about 30 miles south of Santa Barbara, and is 24 miles long in length and 16 breadth, and contains about 74,000 acres of land, which are admirably adapted to sheep-raising. Last June Moore clipped 1,014 sacks of wool from these sheep, each sack contain an average of 410 pounds of wool, making a total of 415,740 pounds, which he sold at 27 cents a pound, bringing him in \$112,349.80, or a clear profit of over \$80,000. This is said to be a low yield, so it is evident that sheep-raising there, when taken into consideration that shearing takes place twice a year and that a profit is made off the sale of mutton, is very profitable. The island is divided into four quarters by fences running clear across at right angles, and the sheep have not to be herded like those ranging about the foothills.

Although no herding is necessary, about 200 or more trained goats are kept on the island continually, which to all intents and purposes take the place of shepherd dogs so necessary in mountainous districts where sheep are raised. The goat through its training understands what is wanted and immediately runs to the band and the sheep accept it as their leader, following the man to whatever point he wishes to take the band. The owner of the island and sheep, A. P. Moore a few years ago purchased the property from the window of his deceased brother, Henry, for \$600,000. "

The sixty-one foot island supply schooner *Santa Rosa* ultimately went ashore in high seas at Cuyler Harbor, San Miguel Island in 1899. The remains of the schooner have yet to be discovered, and may have been used in the construction of island structures and fencing."

For a complete copy of the article (PDF format) contact Sarah MacWilliams at [Sarah.MacWilliams@noaa.gov](mailto:Sarah.MacWilliams@noaa.gov).

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

### **Special Events**

#### *Channel Islands Explorers Presentation*

On March 24th Laura Francis, CINMS Education Coordinator, provided an interactive educational presentation about the sanctuary to Cleveland School (Santa Barbara) sixth grade students participating in a two week program called Channel Islands Explorers. In this program, students learn about the geology, biology and natural history of the Channel Islands. Their experience culminates with a weekend trip to the Santa Cruz Island field station to get a first hand experience on one of the Channel Islands.



### *Santa Barbara News Press Plugged In Page*

Laura Francis and staff from the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum developed the April Plugged In Page for the Santa Barbara News Press. The page focused on Underwater Exploration and included a shipwreck matching activity for students to match photos of underwater artifacts of the *Winfield Scott* to a drawing of the underwater map of the shipwreck debris field. Photos and map for the activity were provided by Robert Schwemmer. The Plugged In page is a publication of the Santa Barbara News Press and the Santa Barbara Educators Roundtable, a group of 27 educational organizations in Santa Barbara. The page is designed to promote learning among young readers in natural science, history, technology and art. Laura Francis was recently nominated as Vice-Chair of this group.

### *Long Term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS)*

On April 22, 2006 educational staff from the sanctuary and the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Marine Science Institute, surveyed Frenchy's Cove, Anacapa Island to set up and describe a new rocky intertidal site there for the LiMPETS program. Eleven LiMPETS teachers and field biologists from the park also participated in the survey. This is the first LiMPETS rocky intertidal monitoring site established within the sanctuary. The site descriptions will be posted on the LiMPETS website in the next couple of weeks. For more information about LiMPETS visit the website

[www.limpets.noaa.gov](http://www.limpets.noaa.gov).

## **Conferences**

### *National Science Teachers Association Conference*

On April 7-8 CINMS Education Coordinator Julie Bursek attended the National Science Teachers Association annual conference in Anaheim, California. Bursek and representatives of the Center for Image Processing in Education (CIPE) co-presented a short course called *Exploring Data with GIS to Experience Sanctuaries* (EDGES) to 16 pre-registered classroom teachers. The Channel Islands, Florida Keys, Gray's Reef and Stellwagen Bank national marine sanctuaries worked with CIPE to provide real scientific data and educational materials for this curriculum. Classroom ready EDGES lessons explore the locations and characteristics of the thirteen national marine sanctuaries, compare the bathymetry and width of continental shelves of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, examine the impact of bathymetry on the distribution of sediments and marine habitats, and reveal how scientists study oceans using satellites, stationary buoys, and drifting buoys. One lesson assists students with designing their own projects including data collection and analysis using ArcView GIS software. Participants received a copy of the EDGES curriculum.

### *November 10-12, 2006 American Cetacean Society Conference, Ventura*

Shauna Bingham, CINMS Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, and Tina Reed, CINMS Education and Outreach Administrator, are coordinating the sanctuary's participation in the American Cetacean Society's 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Whales without Borders." The conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Ventura. The sanctuary will provide volunteer support and participation in the conference's marine protected areas panel.

## **Meetings**

### *Connecting Schools to Community Science Organization*

Laura Francis, Julie Bursek and Rocio Lozano participated in a meeting at the Santa Barbara County Education Office on April 27th about connecting schools to community science organizations. The meeting was led by Craig Strang from the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley, California. The focus of the meeting was to determine how institutions can engage with schools in ways that help improve science education and also meet their organizational mission.

## **Education Grants**

### *Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program*

The Santa Barbara and Ventura B-WET Program received thirteen grant proposals from organizations in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and recommended seven of those proposals for funding. Official funding announcements will be



made in July 2006. B-WET provides organizations with funds to support environmental education for students, teachers, and communities throughout California (for the Santa Barbara area this includes the counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura). Up to \$350,000 is available to implement projects in two priority areas, Meaningful Watershed Education for students (K-12) and Professional Development in the Area of Environmental Education for Teachers (K-12). For more information, contact [seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov](mailto:seaberry.nachbar@noaa.gov).

## **Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Volunteer Program**

### *March and April Whale Watch Vessel Excursions*

CINC volunteers continue educating whale watch vessel passengers on the Santa Barbara-based *Condor Express*, *Rachel G*, and *Double Dolphin*, as well as Ventura-based Island Packer boats, and with the conclusion of trips this season on the *Speed Twin*. Gray whales are still being sighted in the Channel, as well as humpbacks. The first blue whale, while early in the season, was seen on April 13 near Anacapa Island.

### *March 21<sup>st</sup> CINC Monthly Meeting*

Dr. Joan Lentz, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Research Associate, presented *Coastal Birds of Southern California*, an informative talk about local oceanic and shore birds. She recently authored a book entitled *Introduction to Birds of the Southern California Coast, a California Natural History Guide*. This information will be instrumental in helping our naturalists to identify birds on whale watch and other excursions in the Channel.

### *CINC Member Recognition*

Volunteers' Efforts Highlighted In Santa Barbara News-Press: The Channel Islands Naturalist Corps was lauded as a "role model for other sanctuaries" in the recent "State of the Sanctuary" report. It was written that the 120 volunteers of the CINC help sanctuary visitors "get the most out of their experience, and also contribute to research and monitoring." The volunteer program is so successful that expansion into education and outreach to boaters, kayakers and other users is being considered.

The State of the Sanctuary report can be read at:

<http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/sos05/channelislands.html>

*CINC Research Assistance* (please see Research and Monitoring on. p. 9)

### *Photo-ID Training*

On April 11, CINC volunteer Josh Kaye-Carr, led a blue and humpback whale photo-ID training session for over 20 CINC volunteers. Josh developed a comprehensive training manual and instructed volunteers in camera operations. CINC volunteers are being trained in partnership with Cascadia Research Collective, which will use the photo-ID data to track populations of blue and humpback whales in the Santa Barbara Channel. A second training session with John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research Founder, was held on May 4, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. CINC volunteers will conduct photo-ID on board the *Condor Express* and *Island Packers* vessels from May through September.

### *Public Outreach*

Ventura County Museum of History and Art Features Exhibit Celebrating the Channel Islands: The Ventura County Museum of History and Art's new "Island Passages" exhibit features photography, painting, and three-dimensional art from 27 Ventura and Santa Barbara county artists. The artists' work celebrates the 25th anniversary of the park and sanctuary. Shauna Bingham, CINMS Volunteer Outreach Coordinator, represented the sanctuary at the opening reception held on March 3 to honor the park and sanctuary. Approximately 600 people attended the reception, including several notable community members: former U.S. Congressman Robert J. Lagomarsino, who introduced the bill that created the park; Russell Galipeau, CINP Superintendent; Ann Huston, CINP Chief of Cultural Resources; and Anne Graumlich, Curator for the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. The participating artists, chosen from among nearly 200 applicants, also joined in honoring the park and sanctuary at the opening reception. Since March 2005 the artists have



taken dozens of trips to Anacapa, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz and San Miguel islands. During these trips they created new works while exploring, hiking, wandering and diving. They sketched, photographed, gathered radar and sonar measurements, picked up beach debris, and painted, all while soaking up the feeling of these special islands, often referred to as "The American Galapagos." The exhibit runs from March 4 through May 29, 2005.

Santa Barbara Whale Festival, Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, CA: On Saturday, March 4, 2006 the sanctuary participated in the 11th annual Santa Barbara Whale Festival, which drew over 2,000 community members and tourists. Activities led by the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps included whale watching tours, whale information-stations, diving demonstrations, and children's marine related arts and crafts. The festival was sponsored by the sanctuary, the Ty Warner Sea Center in partnership with the Stearns Wharf Business Association, Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center, and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

Channel Islands Harbor Celebration of Whales, Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard: On Sunday, March 5, 2006 the sanctuary participated in the Channel Islands Harbor Celebration of Gray Whales. Over 200 community members and tourists participated in the celebration's educational festivities, which focused on gray whale migration.

Monte Vista School Science Fair, Goleta, CA: On March 2, 2006 Debra Herring and Doug Williams, both members of the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer program, participated in the Monte Vista Elementary School Science Fair in Goleta, California. Herring and Williams provided hands-on activities showing over 200 students how to identify and track whales in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

3/12/06 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Point Mugu State Park Whale Festival: On Sunday, March 12, 2006, the sanctuary and park attended the Point Mugu Whale Festival. This event enabled the sanctuary to reach out to over 1,000 members of the greater Los Angeles community with information about the resources of the sanctuary and wildlife viewing opportunities.

3/1-3/5 Fred Hall Show, Long Beach: Natalie Senyk, CINMS Scientific Advisor, and Warren Glaser, Sanctuary Advisory Council member and Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer, represented the sanctuary at the 60th Anniversary Fred Hall Fishing & Tackle Show. The show was held March 1-5 at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center. This was the largest sport show ever held in the western United States and was sponsored by the American Sportfishing Association (the trade association of the fishing tackle industry). CINMS participated through a partnership with Marty Golden, Pacific Recreational Fisheries Coordinator for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

3/19/06 Ventura County Museum of History and Art Family Day: On Sunday, March 19 the sanctuary participated in the Ventura County Museum of History and Art Free Family Sunday. Over 200 visitors were provided with hands-on information about whales and the sanctuary. This event was organized in support of the current art exhibit at the museum, "Island Passages: Artists Celebrate the Channel Islands." This exhibit, along with a series of public programs, is being sponsored by the museum to raise awareness about the resources of the Channel Islands.

4/5/06 Ventura County Science Fair and Expo: The sanctuary and park provided hands-on activities and participated in the Science Fair scavenger hunt to teach Ventura County students about scientific inquiry and the resources of the Channel Islands.

4/8/06 Ventura County Museum of Art "Museum Gone Wet and Wild" Day: CINC volunteers joined the UCSB Marine Science Institute's REEF touch tank program to present a day of hands-on marine activities for museum visitors.

4/13/06 Hope School Science Night: Barbara LaCorte, CINC volunteer and Advisory Council member, presented information about the sanctuary and park to students at the Hope School Science Night in Santa Barbara.

4/26-30/06 Santa Barbara County Fair and Expo: The sanctuary and park co-sponsored an exhibit at this year's Santa Barbara County Fair and Expo. The theme of this event was "The Sky's the Limit." Sanctuary/park volunteers and staff



provided hands-on education about several endangered species of birds that occur on the Channel Islands, including the Brown Pelican and Bald Eagle. 45,000 local area residents attended this event.

4/29-30/06 Santa Barbara Maritime Museum: The sanctuary and park co-sponsored an educational booth at this year's Santa Barbara Maritime Museum Sea Fest. Local community members and tourists were provided with information focusing on the maritime heritage resources of the sanctuary and park.

4/29/06 Santa Barbara Art Exhibit: Annie Crawley, one of our CINC volunteers had an art exhibit hosted by the Sojourner Cafe on April 29 in Santa Barbara. Ten percent of all proceeds have been donated to the educational outreach program for Channel Islands Naturalist Corps.

#### *Earth Day Celebrations*

April 20 Amgen Earth Day, Thousand Oaks: The sanctuary and park attended Amgen's Earth Day. Amgen is one of the world's largest biotechnology companies, with approximately 2,500 staff members at their Thousand Oaks, California location. Amgen has pioneered the development of novel products based on advances in recombinant DNA and molecular biology and launched the biotechnology industry's first blockbusters. Over 200 participants were formally contacted about sanctuary resources at this event.

April 22 Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) Earth Day Fair, San Pedro: Sanctuary educational brochures were distributed in partnership with the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service at this year's Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Earth Day Fair.

April 22-23 Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific Earth Day: The sanctuary attended the Aquarium of the Pacific's Earth Day celebration in partnership with NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and the park. Over 12,000 visitors learned how they could protect the environment during a weekend of family fun.

April 23 Community Environmental Council Earth Day, Santa Barbara: Over 5,000 community members attended the Earth Day celebration in Santa Barbara. The sanctuary and park, provided education and outreach about the resources of the Channel Islands at this 16th annual Santa Barbara Earth Day celebration.

#### *Adopt a Business Program (Brochure Distribution)*

Many of our volunteers distribute the *Protecting Your Channel Islands* brochures to local marine and tourism-related businesses, as part of a monthly effort. This enables us to reach ocean users and potential sanctuary visitors who pick up brochures at landings, yacht clubs, tackle shops, dive and sport shops in the area.

### **Multicultural Education for Resources Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)**

#### *MERITO Outreach events*

##### Oxnard Earth Day:

On April 8th, the sanctuary's MERITO program reached over 400 people during the 'Earth Day' event at Oxnard Park Plaza. "Seas the Day", co-sponsored by the City of Oxnard Wastewater Division, Oxnard's Earth Day event was created to foster environmental awareness and involvement in the community. The MERITO program hosted a collaborative booth between the sanctuary and park, providing hands-on and bilingual education about the resources of the sanctuary and park. Rocío Lozano de Knowlton, MERITO Bilingual Program Coordinator, and Noemi Estrella, MERITO Bilingual Intern, provided information in English and in Spanish to over 100 Hispanic families regarding the CINMS resources, programs and ocean related threats utilizing printed information, and hands-on activities such as the coastal watershed model.

Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (AEOE) Annual Spring Conference: MERITO staff participated in the AEOE Annual Spring Conference held in Malibu, April 29-30. Over 50 speakers from the California environmental



education community presented at the conference. MERITO staff assisted with the workshops related to sustainability, environmental education, research and pedagogy in-class or outdoors, and to workshops related to instructional strategies for English Language Learners and outreach to diverse audiences.

#### *MERITO Bilingual Communications Program*

MERITO is currently sponsoring and promoting a cartoon contest for 8th to 12th grade students in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The purpose of the cartoon contest is to create a series of characters in a cartoon strip to promote the importance of water quality and protection of the watersheds that lead to the ocean and the Channel Islands. The cartoon characters will be used on bi-lingual materials developed by CINMS. Prizes include a \$200 grand prize, and 4 runner-up prizes of \$50 each. All winners will meet Sergio Aragones, cartoonist for Mad Magazine, and the top 20 entries will win a day trip to visit the CINMS aboard the R/V *Shearwater*. Entries were due Friday May 12th, 2005 at 5:00 P.M. For contest rules and information visit: [http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/edu\\_actl.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/edu_actl.html) or contact Rocio [Lozano@noaa.gov](mailto:Lozano@noaa.gov)

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

### Research and Monitoring Activities

#### *Plumes and Blooms*

UCSB researchers conducted three Plumes and Blooms (PnB) cruises on board R/V *Shearwater* on March 3, March 21, and April 19, 2006. Approximately every three weeks data are collected along a seven-station transect from Santa Rosa platform to Goleta Point. The main goal of the PnB Project is to develop and optimize algorithms that will be used to relate the measurements taken from satellites to *in-situ* ocean properties like chlorophyll content and organic and inorganic particles. Each PnB cruise measures physical characteristics of the water including parameters that describe color and light in the water, as well as temperature, pressure, and density, among many others. Aerosol optical thickness observations were recently added to the program to assess the influence of the amount of aerosols on ocean color modeling. The PnB data set has been extensively used in papers and publications and has enabled several graduate students to complete advanced degrees. For more information, please visit: <http://www.icess.ucsb.edu/PnB/Overview.html>.

#### *UCSB Lobster Research*

UCSB researchers in Dr. Hunter Lenihan's Lab began a new project in the sanctuary in March: "Monitoring of the Channel Islands State Marine Reserves through collaborative research on California spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*)," sponsored by the Collaborative Marine Research Program. The goal of this project is to assess the effect of the Channel Island State Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) on spiny lobster conservation and fishery management, and to foster collaboration between researchers and fishers.

Over four days in March 2006, researchers surveyed the lobster population and habitat at MPAs on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands, and in nearby non-protected habitat. They located urchin barrens and deployed artificial lobster habitat ("casitas") at two sites. These sites will be revisited to conduct experimental trapping with commercial fishing partners to determine the influence of habitat on trapping. In addition, the team was able to refine their techniques by identifying ways to improve survey-diver training and data sheets, and by testing the effectiveness of different survey methods.



Hunter Lenihan, Matt Kay and Heather Coleman prepare for a lobster research dive on R/V *Shearwater* at Scorpion Anchorage at Santa Cruz Island. Photo Credit: UCSB

### *Rocky Intertidal Monitoring*

In March, 2006 park researchers braved some of our wet winter weather to begin the 2006 Rocky Intertidal Monitoring field season. Biologist Dan Richards led a team of scientists to conduct monitoring at Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands. National Park Service monitoring of the Channel Islands rocky intertidal ecosystem began in 1982 at Anacapa Island, and has continued through 2006, now encompassing 21 sites on the five islands in the park and sanctuary. Information from this project is used to determine intertidal community changes and to provide baseline information for evaluating future population shifts. Researchers measure cover of approximately 32 target sessile invertebrates and algal taxa in fixed plots that are photographed and scored each spring and fall. Various snail, chiton, and limpet species are monitored in those plots once a year with counts and size measurements. Black abalone and giant owl limpets are also monitored in larger fixed plots. Sea stars are monitored through timed searches and surfgrass cover is monitored in fixed transects.

### *Xantus's Murrelet Sea Bird Monitoring*

Seabird biologists Darrell Whitworth and Josh Koepke of the California Institute of Environmental Studies began the seventh year of Xantus's Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) monitoring in April 2006. Xantus's Murrelets, a California state threatened species, is a small seabird that nests in small crevices in steep, rocky cliffs or sea caves. Whitworth and Koepke, with assistance from CINC volunteers, searched for nests and eggs during the day, and conducted surveys of social aggregations of adults on the water during the night. During the first trip of the season on April 6-7 researchers saw plenty of adult birds on the water at night, but found no nests or eggs. During the second trip, April 20-21, researchers experienced extremely calm weather and found the first nests and eggs of the season. Anacapa Island is one of only 12 islands where Xantus's Murrelets are known to breed. In the past, the survival of this colony had been threatened by predatory non-native Black Rats (*Rattus rattus*). Since the eradication of rats (completed in 2002) the number of nests has increased. More trips are scheduled for the rest of the breeding season to monitor the recovery of Xantus's Murrelet at Anacapa Island.



Xantus's Murrelets researchers approach caves on Anacapa Island in a small boat. Photo: Dani Lipski



Darrell Whitworth holds a Xantus's Murrelets egg. Photo: Dani Lipski

### **Volunteer Research Assistance (for information about CINC volunteers see p. 6)**

#### *Sanctuary Volunteer Research and Monitoring Highlighted at the California Marine Mammal Stranding Network Conference*

On March 3, 2006 Josh Kaye-Carr, a member of the CINC volunteer program, presented information on the sanctuary's marine mammal sightings database and volunteer photo-ID program at the California Marine Mammal Stranding Network Conference. CINC volunteers collect data on board public whale watch tours and excursions to the sanctuary and park. The photo-ID program supports the Cascadia Research Collective. The conference was held at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, California. Over 60 participants attended Kaye-Carr's presentation.

### *Seabird Research Trips*

CINC volunteers supported researchers during the 2006 Xantus's Murrelet field season on board the R/V *Shearwater*. Two CINC volunteers were scheduled on each trip. This opportunity provided volunteers with the unique opportunity to learn more about seabird research and the biology of the endangered Xantus's Murrelet.

### *CINC Plankton Tows*

CINC volunteers are collecting plankton samples for a study looking at the long-term effects of domoic acid on California Sea Lions. The study is a collaboration between The Marine Mammal Center, California Department of Health Services,

and University of California Santa Cruz. CINC volunteers are conducting the tows and taking samples at two designated sampling stations between Santa Rosa Island and Campus Point in Goleta. Samples are mailed and immediately analyzed by the Department of Health Services. Recent samples revealed the presence of both toxin producers *Pseudonitzschia* and *Alexandrium*. *Alexandrium* is a dinoflagellate that produces another neurotoxin that can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP).

## VESSEL OPERATIONS

### Vessel Program Support

During the reporting period the R/V *Shearwater* facilitated the following projects:

#### *Education and Outreach:*

- LiMPETS rocky intertidal monitoring, 22 April.
- White Abalone Restoration as a tool to foster undergraduate participation in oceanographic research, 17 April.

#### *Research and Monitoring*

- Rocky intertidal monitoring with scientists and rangers from the National Park Service, 25-29 March.
- Monitoring of state marine reserves through spiny lobster research with scientists from UCSB, 13-17 March.
- On-going monitoring of Xantus's Murrelet populations and nesting efforts, 06-07 and 20-21 April.
- On-going water quality monitoring in the Santa Barbara Channel with scientists from UCSB, 03 and 21 March, 19 April.

#### *Social Science Surveys*

- In-house surveys of non-consumptive user and recreational boater patterns, 04-05 March.

#### *Agency Cooperation*

- *Shearwater* was in Monterey, working with staff from NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) to facilitate camera sled tows from 23 April – 03 May.

For details on any of these Research, Education, or Outreach projects, please refer to the relevant section in this Superintendent's Report.

### Vessel Maintenance

#### *R/V Xantu*

*Xantu* is in dry dock for a series of engine and outdrive repairs and after approximately six weeks, the overhaul is nearly complete. Once sanctuary personnel are confident that the vessel can be operated safely and efficiently, it will resume sea bird surveys, personnel transfers, and dive operations.

## WEB SITE (<http://channelislands.noaa.gov>)

### Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the CINMS web site.

The sanctuary's Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are now available for public review and comment and can be downloaded from our web site. For details visit the management plan section of the site at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan.html>



Within the education section, the 'Cool Stuff' page offers a new look and feel. This page offers a link to the Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries, an underwater slide show and more.

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/cool.html>

We are hosting an online PDF version of our Boating and Safety brochure along with the *Protecting your Channel Islands* brochure, which are available for download at:

[http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/edu\\_pro.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/edu_pro.html)

The R/V *Shearwater* 2006 vessel schedule is now available for the months of May, June and July at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/res/calendar/2005.html>

A CINMS Teachers at Sea program is now in place and available online at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/tas.html>

### New Features

In addition to weekly updates, a new home page design is in development to offer a search feature that will allow users to search for content sanctuary wide.

### Upcoming Modifications

Edits to the West Coast Shipwreck Database, the addition of Advisory Council members' photos and biographies online, and an Advisory Council issues web section are on deck for May and June 2006.

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.*

*Comments and suggestions can be sent to [amy.cale@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.cale@noaa.gov).*





## NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS



### Budget Director Visits Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Budget Director Steve Gallagher and his family visited the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary on Tuesday, April 11th, 2006. Mr. Gallagher participated in a staff roundtable, visited the sanctuary exhibit at the Ty Warner Sea Center, toured the sanctuary's SeaWolf aircraft and the R/V *Shearwater*, and visited the building site for the new Ocean Science Education Building planned for the University of California, Santa Barbara campus.



NOAA Budget Director Steve Gallagher (far right) visited the sanctuary in April. Photo: Laura Francis.

### THREE-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

MAY	
Mar. 4 - May. 29	Island Passages: Artists Celebrate the Channel Islands Ventura County Museum of History and Art, 100 E. Main St., Ventura, CA (805) 653-0323 <a href="http://www.venturamuseum.org">www.venturamuseum.org</a>
May 15	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> This meeting will be held in Santa Barbara. Please check our web site to confirm the date, and for the time, agenda, directions, and more information <a href="http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html">www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</a>
May 20	<i>Children's Festival, Alameda Park, Santa Barbara</i>
May 20	Fillmore Science Expo
JUNE	
Jun 4	Santa Barbara Zoo Wonders of Water Kick-Off Event
June 17 - 18	Ventura Harbor Sea Fest
Jun 27	<i>Draft Management Plan Public Hearing - 6:15-9:00 pm</i> Sheraton Four Points Hotel, San Buenaventura Ballroom 1050 Schooner Drive, Ventura, California
Jun 29	<i>Draft Management Plan Public Hearing - 6:15-9:00 pm</i> Earl Warren Showgrounds, Warren Hall 3400 Calle Real Street, Santa Barbara, California
JULY	
Jul 21	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> This meeting will be held in Ventura. Please check our web site to confirm the date, and for the time, agenda, directions, and more information <a href="http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html">www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</a>
Jul 21	<i>Draft Management Plan Public Comment Period Closes</i>

## Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Manager's Report is produced bi-monthly by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:  
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.

## The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

## Channel Islands National Park

To learn about Channel Islands National Park visit their web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage.htm>.

## GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:  
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/involved.html>

Sign up for the CINMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its working groups:  
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.html>

## CINMS Staff

*Christopher Mobley – Sanctuary Superintendent*

*Todd Jacobs – Deputy Superintendent*

*Shauna Bingham – Volunteer Program and Outreach Coordinator*

*Julie Bursek – Education Coordinator, Oxnard Office*

*Amy Cale – Web Developer*

*Laura Francis – Education Coordinator, Santa Barbara Office*

*Clare Fritzsche – CINC Volunteer Program & Administrative Assistant (Channel Islands National Park)*

*Sean Hastings – Resource Protection Coordinator*

*LT Julie V. Helmers – Executive Officer*

*Lorri Herr – Program Support Specialist*

*Rochelle King – Administration Specialist*

*Charles Lara – Deckhand*

*Dani Lipski – Research Assistant*

*Rocío Lozano de Knowlton – MERITO Community Liaison*

*Sarah MacWilliams – Management Plan Specialist*

*Michael Murray – Advisory Council and Management Plan Coordinator*

*Luman Moody – Vessel Captain*

*LTJG Kate Peet – Operations Officer*

*Tina Reed – Education and Outreach Administrator (Oxnard Office)*

*Robert Schwemmer – Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*

*Natalie Senyk – Scientific Advisor*

*Terrence Shinn – Vessel Captain*

*Ben Waltenberger – Physical Scientist*

*Rebecca Young – Database Coordinator*

## CINMS Interns

*Allison Chan – Resource Protection Intern*

*Daryl Austin – Education Intern*

## NMSP West Coast Staff

*Columbine Culberg – Ocean Etiquette Program*

*Manager/Liaison to Aquarium of the Pacific*

*Claire Johnson – West Coast Education Liaison*

*Sarah Marquis – West Coast Media Coordinator*

## Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation

*Donna Schroeder – Acting Executive Director*

## - CONTACT INFORMATION -

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